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Message Text

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P 142243Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT
--- PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 006175, B) CARACAS 349

1. ASSUMING QUESTIONS RAISED REF A ARE FULLY CLARIFIED, WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT TO U.S. BY VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS IN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS. GIVEN CURREMT RESOURCES AND RECENT CANCELLATION OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, WE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO JUSTIFY USG SPONSORED PROGRAM TO TAKE PLACE IN VENEZUELA. IN ANY EVENT, BELIEVE U.S. VISIT WOULD BE IN BEST INTERESTS OF VENEZUELANS, USG, AND U.S. INDUSTRY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: 1) TRIP TO U.S. WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS VENEZUELANS SHOW OF GOOD FAITH TO U.S. INDUSTRY; 2) TRIP CAN BE MADE WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY, IF DESIRABLE; 3) PLANS CAN BE MORE FLEXIBLE; 4) U.S. VISIT WILL BE EASIER TO ORGANIZE AND MANAGE, AND WILL BETTER RECEIVED BY U.S. INDUSTRY.

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2. WE BELIEVE OPTIMUM LENGTH OF STAY WOULD BE 5-10 DAYS,

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DEPENDING ON PREFERENCES OF VENEZUELAN VISITORS. MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED ENTIRELY IN WASHINGTON OR COULD INCLUDE

OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON WITH INDUSTRY MEETINGS AT CENTRAL LOCATIONS CONVENIENT TO PETROCHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND OPERATING FIRMS; I.E. HOUSTON, NEW YORK, AND/OR LOS ANGELES. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THREE WEEKS LEAD TIME IF POSSIBLE TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. TRAVEL PLANS COULD BE HANDLED BY VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, IF APPROPRIATE. WE ALSO HOPE TO PROVIDE COMMERCE ESCORT, IF MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED OUTSIDE WASHINGTON.

3. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE VENEZUELAN AND EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ON ITINERARY AND AGENDA, DESIRED OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CALLS IN WASHINGTON, AND PREFERENCES ON U.S. COMPANIES WHICH VENEZUELANS WISH TO SEE. SUGGEST THESE SUBJECTS BE DISCUSSED AT LEAST ON PRELIMINARY BASIS AT EMBASSY MEETING WITH RIVIERE ON JAN 20, IF APPROPRIATE.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT PETROCHEMICAL REPORT IS NOW COMPLETE AND INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE DETAILED REPORT ON PETROCHEMICAL PLAN, INCLUDING SIZE AND LOCATION OF PROJECTS AND COUNTRY PRIORITIES, ASAP.
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